

C. W. 12/1/1
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THE ANTIGUA FREE PRESS

VOL. IV.

No. 178.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 11, 1828.

SIX DOLLARS PER ANNUM.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

NOW LANDING.

Per Schooner Elizabeth, from Crab Island,
MILL TIMBER,
consisting of

GREGORY, Capau and Cinnamon
Grafts, Double and Single Rollers,
Crown and Half-Crown Beams, square
and round Posts, &c.

Per Schooner Isabella, from Prince Edward's
Island, and Schooner Canso, from Canso,
Cod and Scale Fish in hhds., bbls.,
and loose.

Mackerel, fill and spring,
Herrings, Sounds and Tongues.
Oats, both white and black,
Butter, Fish Oil,
Shingles, 22 & 18 inch,
Oars, and Oar Riggers,
Hoops, Boards and Plank.
Part of the Lumber clear of knots
and full inch thick.

JOHN A. WOOD.

Jan. 11 1828.

For Sale cheap for prompt payment—now land-
ing from Schooner Canso:—

COD FISH in hhds and small packages,
Scale Ditto.
Fall & Spring MACKAREL,
HERRINGS,
HEAVY OATS,
Lamp OIL in barrels,
Fresh BUTTER,
LUMBER, HOOPS, OARS,
And SHINGLES.

Superfine FLOUR.
DARRELL & CO.

Jan. 11, 1828.

INDIAN CORN & CYPRESS SHINGLES.

THE Subscribers have the above Articles
for Sale, (just arrived.)
F. & W. JONES & CO.
January 11, 1828

A YOKE OF PRIME OXEN

For sale at Cherry-Hill, and an-
other at Monks-Hill, on reason-
able terms, for Cash only.
January 11.

OFFICE OF ORDINANCE.

Antigua, 4th January 1828.

THE Respective Officers of His Ma-
jesty's Ordnance hereby give No-
tice, that they will receive Sealed Tenders
(in duplicate) until Twelve o'clock at
noon of Monday the 28th instant, to
supply Artificers and Labourers, as may be
required, from time to time for Service of
this Department, between the 1st Febru-
ary, and 31st December 1828,—as under-
mentioned, viz:—

CARPENTERS,
MASON,
PLUMBERS,
SMITHS,
PAINTERS,
LABORERS,

The Tenders (to be marked on the en-
velope "Tender of Artificers and Labourers")
are to specify in figures, and words at
length, the rates of Daily Hire, in Army
Sterling at 4s. 4d. the Spanish Dollar, and
each Tender is to be accompanied by a
Letter signed by two persons, engaging
to become bound with the party tendering
in the Penal Sum of Two hundred Pounds
Army Sterling, for the due performance
of the Contract, and, respectable reference
as to their Means of Security:—

The said Artificers and Laborers must
be able bodied men, and not under the
Age of Eighteen, or more than Forty-five,
and are to be furnished by the Contractor
on a notice of Four days, whenever Thirty
or more may be required, and of Two
days if less than that Number should be
wanted.—They will be subject to Appro-
val by the Commanding Royal Engineer,
and a trial of Two days will be expected,
at the expiration of which those found in-
competent will be dismissed without wages.
—Similar Notice will be given when it
may be found necessary to discharge any
Tradesmen or Laborers who have been
Approved and Employed on the Public
Works.—

Further informations may be obtained
by applying at this Office, or the Office
of the Royal Engineer on the Ridge.



THE Brig ARETHUSA
having commenced load-
ing.—The Subscribers will feel
obliged for early favors.

The Arethusa being only 152 tons re-
gister, it is expected that she will be full
early in the ensuing month.

Liberal advances will be made on pro-
duce consigned to their friends.

HUGH THOMPSON.

Jan. 3, 1828.

They offer for sale,

Eighteen cases each six dozen St. Juli-
an WINE, of Vintage 1822 at a mo-
derate price.



THE friends of Mr. OTTLEY
and Captain PEARSON are
respectfully informed that the
Ship ANTEUS has commenced loading
for the Port of LONDON.

The kind support they have hitherto re-
ceived from their numerous friends they
trust will be continued, and hope by their
early assistance to be enabled to sail by
the 1st of March.

Parham January, 4, 1828.

FOR BRISTOL.

THE (A. 1) Brig COD-
RINGTON, having two-
thirds of her Cargo engaged.

Mr. OSBORN and Captain HILL re-
quest the Shippers to that Port, to for-
ward their Produce as soon as possible,
so as to enable the Brig to make a second
voyage this year.

January 4, 1828.

AUCTION WITHOUT RESERVE.

On SATURDAY the 12th instant, will be
Sold without reserve at the Subscriber's Store
for Cash on delivery, the whole of the Effects
of the late Mr. THOMAS J. HAMILTON, consist-
ing of Several Articles of:—

HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, Glass
Ware, Saddle and Bridle—a Gig and
Harness,—a fast sailing Schr Boat with Rig-
ging, Sails, and Oars, &c.

Also—A Dwelling House at the Point with
suitable out-offices, immediately above that of
JOSHUA KENTISH Esq.

A Ditto Ditto with out-offices in Bishop-
gate street, well adapted for a small Family.

Immediately after, the following Slaves,
Bob, Ship Carpenter,—Castillo, Labour-
er,—Mary, House Servant,—Ritta, ditto do.
and William.

Terms of the Sale—for House and Slaves
Cash on possession given.

COLEMAN H. LAMITT,

Jan. 4.

Auctioneer.

NOTICE.

IT is requested that all Accounts against
the Estates of JAMES ADAM GORDON,
Esquire, (Sanderson's and Lavington's sepa-
rately,) may be immediately rendered at
Mr. GARLING'S Store.

January 4, 1828.

The Subscribers have on hand from recent
importations, and offer for sale,—

GIG and Mule Harness,
Saddles, Bridles, and Holsters,
Harness and Sole Leather,
Blue and gray Negro Clothing,
Nails, 6dy, 8dy, 20dy, and 30dy,
Horse Shoe and Vane ditto,
Tinned Copper, 24 x 48 inches,
Barley, Split Pease, & Grutts in 20lb, jugs,
Butter in firkins and half firkins,
Pork and Beef in half barrels,
Barclay Perkins & Co's Brown Stout in
half tun butts and hogsheads,
Hollands Gin and Cognac Brandy,
Tongues in kegs,
Bleached Canvas, No. 1 & 6,
Sperm and Mould Candles, & Yellow Soap,
Refined Sugar in large and small loaves,
Paints and Paint Oil,
Crown Glass, 12 x 18, 12 x 16, 11½ x 14,
11 x 13, 10 x 12,
Bar, round and square Iron, assorted sizes,
Brass wire Cloth, 36, 40, 50, and 60 mesh,
Ditto Sugar Strainers, and
A general assortment of Dry Goods.

JAMIESON & RAMSAY.

January 4, 1828.

For Sale by the Subscribers,

A Handsome & substantial CHAISE,
with Calash Top, patent Axle and
HARNESS, complete.

If the above is not disposed of by Sa-
turday the 26th inst., it will on that day
be sold by Auction.

JOHN PAGE & CO.

Jan. 4, 1828.

THE Subscriber returns his thanks to
the persons who endeavoured on
the night of the 1st instant, so ably to as-
sist a former pretended friend of his, in
injurings him. He has the pleasure of in-
forming them that the Tenement which
they destroyed by throwing it into the sea,
will not cost him many pounds to replace;
and condoles with them on their being un-
able, from the alarm conveyed to the neigh-
bourhood, to effect the destruction of his
Gate. It will remain an impression on
his mind, of the generosity of the parties,
of whom he has received tolerably accu-
rate information.

Jan. 4.

THOMAS KIPPIN.

The Subscriber offers for sale,

CLARET, first and second growth,
Old Port Wine, Sherry and Lon-
don Particular Tenerife, by the 3 doz.
Cod Fish, Butter, Smoked Herrings and
Southern Red Oak Staves.

Dec. 28.

L. J. BUTLER.

THE Subscriber:—A notorious
runway negro man named Nelson, too
well known to need any description,
it is supposed he is harboured by his fa-
ther John Gregg, a Mason on Burton's
Estate. Two Dollars reward, and the
Country Bounty, will be given for his
apprehension; and all persons are here-
by cautioned from harbouring, or employ-
ing him, as, in case of detection, they
will be prosecuted to the utmost rigour
of the Law.

JOHN BUNN.

THE Subscriber, thankful for the little
encouragement he has received in the
School-way, begs for further patronage.—For
fresh information, he teaches Reading, Writ-
ing, Arithmetic Grammar, and analyzing
parts of speech, per month. Separately—Book
Keeping by single and double entry, Geogra-
phy (where Globes and other means are fur-
nished), and Dancing per month.

Of Learning a wise man observes—
" 'Tis a friend when riches fail."

And of Dancing a poet says—
" True ease in speaking comes from art, not chance,
As those move easiest that have learn'd to dance."

The Subscriber will be happy to deal with
his creditors, and be satisfied with proportion-
ate payments.

THOMAS PERRIN NANTON.

St. John's Dec. 28, 1827.

N. B. Favors left at either of the Printing
Offices will be called for on the 2d Jan next.

REPORT

OF THE

ANTIGUA BRANCH ASSOCIATION FOR THE
CONVERSION AND RELIGIOUS INSTRU-
CTION OF THE NEGRO SLAVES IN THE
WEST INDIES.

THE Antigua Branch Association pre-
sent the following brief Report of
their first year's proceedings.—In pursu-
ance of a Resolution passed soon after
the association was formed, by which it
was determined, "that the funds be ap-
propriated for the present to the payment
of subordinate teachers on estates," the
Rectors of the several Parishes proceed-
ed to the appointment of such teachers,
and there are now eighteen on the list,
each receiving four dollars a quarter.
These teachers are generally free persons
or slaves residing on or belonging to the
estates, of good character and competent
ability; and their province is to carry on
the work of instruction during the ab-
sence of the Catechist, at such time as
may be approved of by the master, and
be most convenient for the people to at-
tend. Thus the visits of the Catechist
become effective in directing and stimu-
lating the instruction given by the sub-
ordinate teachers, and the progress made
by the Negroes who enjoy this additional
advantage, is comparatively rapid with the
improvement of those who depend for it
solely on the unassisted exertions of the
Catechist. There are eight Catechists
employed in Antigua, one of whom is paid
by the Church Missionary Society, the
rest by the Bishop. There is also one
resident in Barbuda, appointed and paid
by the Bishop. The association has en-
gaged to defray the annual rent (£80
currency) of a House at English-Harbour,
appropriated as a School-Room, and in
which Divine Service is occasionally per-
formed.

The School is conducted on the Na-
tional System, and there are on the list

seventy Boys, of whom forty-five are free
and twenty-five are slaves; and sixty Girls,
of whom thirty-four are free and twenty-
six are slaves. And here the association
cannot but congratulate their Subscribers
and all persons interested in the Reli-
gious and suitable education of the free
coloured and slave population of this Is-
land, on the re-modelling of the School
in St. John's, which many years past has
been, and is still, supported by the Pa-
rent Society in England, at whose expense
that part of their premises, formerly used
as a Chapel, has been fitted up for a
School-room, and is now exclusively ap-
propriated to that purpose. By The Rt.
Rev'd the LORD BISHOP of the Diocese;

Mr. MERCER was appointed the Masters
He entered on the duties of his new ap-
pointment the latter end of August last;
and by his unremitting attention and per-
severing exertions, guided by a thorough
knowledge of the National System of in-
struction, the number of Boys has greatly
increased, and their good order and pro-

gress, at a late public examination, en-
d forth the gratifying approbation of his
Excellency Sir PATRICK ROSS, and others
attendant on that occasion. The number
of boys at present on the list is one
hundred and fifty-three, of whom sixty
are slaves. Thirty-six free coloured and
one slave have been clothed by volun-
tary contribution. Nor must the girls'
School, though as yet in its infancy, be
passed over unnoticed. One of the rooms
of the Dwelling-house belonging to the
Parent Society has been set apart for
the purpose, and there are at present fifty-
two girls, black and coloured on the list,
of whom twelve are slaves. In making
mention of these Schools the association
wish it to be understood, that they de-
sire not to attach any credit to themselves;
but to shew their marked respect and
acknowledge their obligations to the Pa-
rent Society, on whose premises the Schools
are held, and out of whose funds both
the Master and Mistress are paid. The
association has also sincere pleasure in
noticing the Establishment of a 'Sunday
School for the instruction of the free co-
loured and slaves of the Town of Saint
John and the adjoining Estates. The Pa-
rent Society's School-room is thrown open
for the purpose, and the average number
attending is one hundred and eighty. The
School is entrusted to the able manage-
ment of Mr. Mercer, and as an acknow-
ledgment of his services, a sum has been
reserved out of the collection made at
St. John's Church after a Sermon preach-
ed in aid of the Sunday-School.

Such has been the progress which the
association has as yet been enabled to
make in the Religious and suitable in-
struction of the free coloured and slaves
of this Island. And whilst they feel thank-
ful for the success which has hitherto at-
tended their exertions, they cannot but
lament that these exertions are, and ne-
cessarily must continue to be, very lim-
ited, so long as the Subscriptions, on the
promise of which the association are in-
duced to make their arrangements, are
not more liberal and so irregularly
made. The appearance in the columns of
a Newspaper (through the kindness of
the Editor) as the only channel by which
these labours and their wants can be made
known, is a most convincing proof of their
pecuniary embarrassments. Most desirous
are they to enlarge their sphere of use-
fulness in that which they regard as a
most important department of it—the sup-
port of subordinate teachers. Gladly
would they hail the day when they should
be called upon to grant a subordinate
teacher to every estate in the Island;
being convinced that until that much de-
sired object be effected, the work of Re-
ligious instruction must necessarily be slow
in its progress, and the labours of the
Catechist ineffective, if not, in many in-
stances, nugatory. When, therefore, it is
remembered that the exertions of this
Society are confined to and its funds ex-
tended solely in this Island, it is con-
fidently hoped that the inhabitants of An-
tigua will acknowledge its earliest and
strongest claims on their liberal support,
and will not permit an institution tend-
ing to produce so much local benefit, to
sink into comparative uselessness and in-
significance.

January 11, 1828.

THE ANTIGUA FREE PRESS.

ANTIGUA FREE PRESS

SAINT JOHN, JANUARY 11, 1828.

HAVING no wish whatever to provoke unnecessary controversy with our contemporary, we shall be brief in noticing his reply to the observations made in our last particular. As there is nothing in his attempted justification of them which can remove the impression made by his former remarks, the dangerous principles and tendency of which are too apparent. But as the Editor of the *Register* seems desirous to imply that we were influenced by motives very different to those which really actuated us, and that our remarks were made at the suggestion of others, we feel ourselves called upon to explain away the charge. In attempting to fix this imputation upon him, we (plausibly enough we admit) taking it for granted that he is actuated by the purest and most disinterested motives, we are induced to ascribe his animadversions upon our Editorial article to a misapprehension rather than to supposed misconstruction; the more so that two weeks passed over, (with an intermediate apology for barrenness), without his deigning to notice our imputed misconduct during which period we were informed, and heard with much surprise, that we had incurred the censure of a few others, in much the same language as he has expressed himself. This may appear to be a very fair hit at us, and to warrant the insinuation conveyed in it. But our readers will perhaps recollect that in our paper of the 21st December, we stated that we were compelled for the present to omit some articles of local interest which were then partly in type; amongst these were observations at great length on the decision of Lord Stowell, and the leading article on the subject which had appeared in the *Register* the Tuesday previous. The interruption of business occasioned by the Christmas holidays prevented their completion and insertion the following week; and hence our apology for the barrenness of our columns; having been obliged to avail ourselves of such miscellaneous matter as was previously in type. We were certainly aware how obnoxious the remarks of the *Register* had been, not to "a few others" only, but to very many; yet, far from wishing to irritate public feeling to the prejudice of our contemporary, we regretted that it was our duty to notice his remarks, and when the opportunity offered, we did so in as mild a manner as possible. The charge therefore of having acted from personal ill-will towards him, or upon the suggestion, and in the "language of others," is unfounded. The Editor of the *Register*, who now sees plainly the dangerous ground he has been treading upon, is anxious to persuade the public that the article which appeared in his paper has not the evil tendency ascribed to it; and would lead us to believe that the decision of Lord Stowell has, not only his perfect acquiescence, but his entire approbation. We would here ask him, whether he has not, since the matter was first agitated, since the first seizure of the slaves, often warmly maintained the justice of their claims to freedom, not in his paper, but in public places where he could more safely express his sentiments? If he has not done this we are greatly mistaken indeed; and if he has, what sincerity can there be in his declaration that "he had long anticipated such decision, &c." He submits his remarks boldly to the judgment of the public, and with equal confidence we submit the justice of our animadversions to the same tribunal. Let them, we say, "be read over and over again," and such is their insidious nature, that the more they are read, the more apparent will their object be. The fact is, that the writer was afraid to speak out; he did not dare to say that those slaves were entitled to freedom notwithstanding Lord Stowell's decision, but he ventured, cautiously and cunningly, to insinuate that they were so in "moral justice and equity," although denied it in "right and law." If slaves are taught to believe that they are entitled to freedom in "moral justice and equity" what "right or law" will bind them to obedience?

It was the dangerous tendency of inculcating such principles induced us to comment on the remarks in the *Register*. We are told that those remarks are viewed in the same light only by "a few others," and again, that they are confidently submitted "to the judgment of every man whose mind is not warped by feelings of hostility towards us (the *Register*). Now, supposing that we could have borne

such feelings towards him, what feelings of hostility could those persons have had who have expressed their disapprobation? We can assure the Editor of the *Register* that we have no "feeling of hostility" towards him, nor do we "eagerly look for the extinction of his Press"; but we shall continue to conduct our paper upon the principles on which it was first established; and whenever we see any thing inimical to the interests of the colonies in that Journal we shall expose it. The writer has wanted judgment with all his cunning, he has incontinently thrown aside the cloak of dissimulation, and betrayed the cloven foot.

At the meeting of the Houses of Legislature yesterday, considerable business was gone through with, the full particulars of which it is impossible for us to notice this week; we believe the following to be the principal heads.

A Bill was passed establishing a consignment tax of 2 per cent on North American Articles.

The Slave Consolidation Bill was read a second time.

A Bill for establishing a House of Correction and legalizing the punishment of the Tread Mill passed its first reading.

A Bill was passed to alter the day appointed for taking the returns of property, in consequence of the Trial of Criminal Slaves falling on the 25th of Jan., the day fixed by the existing law for taking the returns. The following day (the 26th) was appointed for receiving them.

A special call of the House was moved and carried for taking into consideration at its next meeting the further consideration of Mr. Davis's Report!!

A Committee was appointed to take into consideration the propriety of appropriating the Hospital at Rat-Island, to the purposes of a jail, House of Correction &c.

We have hitherto refrained from noticing a matter which deeply affects the character of a Barrister lately returned to this Island. We pay no attention to the reports about either one way or the other; we wait, till the particulars transpire, when we shall give them full publicity.

The *Barbadian* of the 1st instant, has furnished us with two excellent articles on Lord Stowell's decision, which will be found in our last page; the one from the *Standard*, the other from the *Glasgow Courier*; and as it must be gratifying to our readers to learn the change of opinion on the other side the water regarding the rights of colonial property, we copy the following extract from the *Morning Chronicle*, a paper hitherto considered inimical to us. The remarks are comments on a letter published in that paper reflecting on Lord Stowell's decision.

"If England recognizes slavery in her Colonies, the relations between master and slave, in one of these Colonies, cannot be disturbed by the accident of the temporary absence of the slave in the Mother Country, where the law takes no notice of any such relations. The master, on regaining possession of the slave, can put him under the necessity of proving the extinction of the relations between them in some mode recognised by the law of the place. The Court of Appeal in England must decide according to the law of the place as much as the House of Peers in an appeal from a Scotch Court. There is an analogous case in English marriages dissolved in Scotland. In England marriage is indissoluble; in Scotland not; and a Scotch Court, without hesitation, dissolves a marriage made in England which the parties intended to be an indissoluble contract, without regarding the nature of the contract, on the principle that adultery and several other sins ought not to be tolerated in a well ordered state. But, when the parties married in England and divorced in Scotland, reappear in England, though they may have been each re-married in the meantime in Scotland, and many children may have been born under such re-marriages, and entitled to succeed to property in that country, the English Law pays no attention to what has been done out of the kingdom, and the relations of husband and wife resume their force and validity. The West India Courts pay no more attention to the relations in which the Slave may have been towards his master in England, or any other country to which he may have been conveyed, or through which he may have passed, than if he had passed the intervening time in a balloon in the air, or as one of the seven sleepers.

Our Correspondent has stated the case of the slave's return to Africa, and being brought from thence to the West Indies by a slave dealer. This, we conceive, does not alter the matter. If the property of the master be not extinguished by some means acknowledged valid in the West Indies, no matter how he found his way back to a country where he recovered his original freedom, and how he was re-conveyed to the West Indies, the master's

right revives with his re-appearance in that region of slavery. If an Englishman's cow were to find its way into one of those regions where cows are worshipped, and where, instead of cows belonging to men, men may be said to belong to cows, if he could lay hands on it again in the County of Middlesex, it would be to small purpose to plead against the ownership, that the cow had been for years acting the part of a divinity in Asia, where the hand that touched her cowship would have been deemed sacrilegious. So long as blacks are held to be chattels in any country, the ownership can only be destroyed in the manner the ownership of other chattels is destroyed in that country. The law may be immoral and anti-Christian, but so long as the law is suffered to exist it must be enforced."

SOUTH AMERICA.

Advices from Bogota, to the 20th October, informs, that the government, under the administration of Bolivar was adopting measures for reducing the army, and the pay of its officers, and making other arrangements to relieve the country of its pecuniary difficulties. It was said that an additional tax of 1000 dollars per annum, had been or was about to be imposed upon all foreign merchants.

It was said a Mexican agent was treating for the purchase of the two fine Colombian frigates lying at Carthagena.

By a decree of the Mexican Congress of October 16, all Spanish Ecclesiastics are ordered to leave the country, and all the property in their convents to be forthwith delivered up to the Mexican Ecclesiastics. They are by the decree forbid to remove any thing but their own personal effects.—*St. Thomas Times*, Dec. 29.

Considerable quantities of gold have lately been found, and still continue to be discovered, in the little island of Aruba, near Curacao. We understand, from Capt. Pitt, of the brigantine *Malvina*, arrived here this day, that he was there lately; and that a few days before, 132 lbs. of that precious metal were gathered and shipped by the last packet which sailed for Holland. Extensive fortifications are now building at Curacao; Captain Pitt adds, that 6,000 troops are daily expected there.—*Grenada Chronicle*, Dec. 8.

From London Papers.

It is believed that the present situation of affairs in Spain will ere long lead to a rupture between the governments of Great Britain and France. It is said that France declined withdrawing her troops from Spain until the debt incurred by their occupation of that kingdom be liquidated. She insists that her claims are of a preferable nature to those of the British capitalists, and that she has a right to seize the revenues of Spain in order to satisfy these claims. Might is too often right, and it would not surprise us, in the present distracted state of Europe, to see France make this seizure, in spite of the remonstrances of Spain herself, and regardless of the prior and more equitable claims of the British creditors.

That France has expended large sums in attempting the pacification of Spain is undisputed. It is equally true, however, that she incurred this expense voluntarily. The French army may have been secretly invited by Ferdinand, but, certain it is, neither the king, the cortes, nor the people, expressed any public opinion favourable to the invasion. The minister of France himself has repeatedly declared that the invasion of Spain was a matter of exigency, which the distracted state of the country, and the contiguity of Spain to France, imposed upon him. But admitting that the expense of this occupation ought to be thrown on Spain—which we only admit for the sake of the assumption—should France be paid in preference to every other creditor? It is the duty of the British subjects. We should not call on the government to interfere between the debtor and the creditor—the borrower and the lender—in ordinary cases. If a few thousand greedy and purblind gulls should choose to lend their money to bankrupt monarchies and dishonest republics, the British government should not be called on to protect them. Lord Dudley would have enough to do if he were to be called on to say to this state, pay Mr. Isaac his interest—to another, acknowledge the debt due to Mr. Solomon—to a third, send a remittance instantly, or his Britannic Majesty will go to war with you, and his minister will create what he has created. This would be rather awkward work for a foreign secretary. By such conduct he would only become the attorney of every Jew who might choose to lend monies between the borrower and the lender, therefore, the British government, even in favour of its own subjects, has no right to interpose. But the case is altered when third parties step in. If France, by occupying Spain, exercises the power of enforcing the liquidation of her claims, then the British government is called upon to protect the rights of its subjects. France must claim as any other creditor. Ferdinand has no right to set apart, for the payments of debts subsequently contracted, those funds originally pledged to former creditors; and especially, should he be restrained from doing this, when it is doubtful how far he is a free agent, or how far this payment is not enforced by coercive measures.

It is well known that, since the occupation, France has enjoyed the monopoly of the Spanish trade. The French ministers have taken care to exclude every other flag from

the ports of that unfortunate kingdom. If the invasion originated in the generous feelings of the French Bourbons for their royal cousin of Madrid, they did not altogether lose sight of their interests. The French trade and commerce have profited largely by the generous act—the expenses of the expedition have been liberally reimbursed by the exclusion of the English from Spanish ports, and the total exclusion of English manufactures.

Under these circumstances they should not be permitted to indulge their capidity further. They have no right to exact payment of any debt due to them by Spain, while the former debts of Spain remain unpaid. For the credit of this country we hope our liberal ministers will not forget what is due to public justice. If France, by force of arms, levy any tax in Spain she is guilty of aggression not only upon Spain herself, but of robbing the creditors of Spain resident in other countries.—*Watchman*.

Nothing has yet occurred to abate the public anxiety regarding the issue of peace at war, or the fate of our countrymen at Constantinople. Many persons in the city believe that ministers are in possession of disastrous information upon the subject, and are unwilling to postpone the disclosure of it to the latest possible period; at all events, the despatches from Constantinople are now out of date, and the old adage of no news being good does not apply in the present instance, for there can be no doubt of Mr. Stratford Canning's anxiety to communicate with his government the first moment he could do so after he knew of the affair at Navarino, if it were only to relieve the intensity of feeling that he knew must prevail in this country in consequence of that set of unprovoked hostility; and if he could have said that it had been received on the part of the Porte with any thing like moderation; he would have been still more eager to use despatch; therefore, we cannot distort this delay in the receipt of advices into any circumstances of a satisfactory nature. A man cannot write if his head be off or if he be in the Seven Towers, and if some extraordinary circumstance had not arisen we think the government (if it have not secret advices of a disastrous nature, as many persons imagine) must have had, ere this, a communication from our representative at the Turkish court. It is calculated, and we believe correctly, that the intelligence of the battle of Navarino, would reach Constantinople through the medium of Ibrahim's Tartar messengers in about six days; for the Turkish government have a ready method of securing celerity among their couriers. They despatch half a dozen on the same errand, reward the two first and bow string the last; so we take it for granted that these *Mercure* would not loiter upon the road. The period of communication between London and Constantinople is between nineteen and twenty-three days; so that, taking the longest time for Ibrahim's messengers to arrive at Constantinople, and for advices to reach London subsequently; giving also forty-eight hours for the allied ambassadors to deliberate, still time is lost.

The intensity of interest excited by the Turkish business monopolizes so completely public attention; that our relations with other quarters seem forgotten. But, however, there is nothing of particular interest from Spain or Portugal. At a period of less anxiety, the French elections, and the revival of revolutionary scenes in Paris, in consequence of the success of Jacobin candidates, would create a great sensation. Paris is menaced by a mob, that is only put down by military force from time to time.

TURKISH MARINE.

We have seen a captain of our navy who recently left Constantinople, and he has favoured us with a description of the state of the Turkish marine and naval arsenal. The dock yard possessed many of the advantages, but the store houses were nearly empty; and although the Turks had evinced an activity equal to any thing our informant had ever witnessed at Portsmouth or Plymouth, it was only on a confined scale, and in the fitting out of a few small vessels. The officers of the yard had worked under the fear of the bowstring, for the Pacha having a short time before sprung his main yard by his own lubberly conduct, he retained into port, and immediately had the mast and yard make straggled on the beach. This unhappy victim of tyrannic war, we believe, a Frenchman. There were at Constantinople 12 sail of the line and 21 frigates; several were three-deckers, but with out poops. The whole were in a decayed state, and scarcely a ship was in a condition which an English shipwright would call sea worthy. Some of them were beautifully fitted with brass cannon, of an immense calibre. Our informant witnessed a review of the cannoniers. Their firing was equally rapid with any thing in our service; but the gunners appeared to pay little or no attention to the pointing of their pieces. A number of the officers were French, with a few who were taught to be Spaniards and Germans. This display of gunnery, though extremely creditable to all concerned, forms no criterion of what the Turks could effect in battle; for victory, in a naval fight, depends on the art of taking advantageous positions in the rapid repair of damages, and counteraction of accidents, of all which the Turks are totally ignorant.—*The Captain Pacha* is a renegade Greek.—*Sunday Paper*.

THE ANTIGUA FREE PRESS.

Very considerable reductions are contemplated in the Navy and Victualling departments. It is reported that the establishment of the Royal Dock yard at Deptford will be broken up, and, forty clerks discharged from the Navy and Victualling Boards.—So great indeed are the necessities of government, that it is a fact within our own knowledge, that in the parish of Lambeth circular letters were sent to those persons who had not paid their taxes, even before three weeks had expired from the time at which they became due; and that even before the collector had applied for the money after leaving the tax papers. Among those who were thus unceremoniously treated, were the Archbishop of Canterbury and persons of the most undoubted wealth. A similar course has also been pursued in the parish of Kennington.—*Brighton Gazette.*

It may not be in the recollection of many of our readers, that Vice Admiral Sir E. Codrington was Captain of the Orion at the memorable battle of Trafalgar. Had he waited another day before he destroyed the Turkish fleet, it would have been the anniversary of the glorious victory in which he had a share on the 21st of October, 1805; when the country was deprived of its lamented naval hero Lord Nelson; and the maritime force of France and Spain annihilated by the British fleet under his command. The loss in killed and wounded on our part at Navarino, is nearly as great as that sustained in the action off Cape St. Vincent, on the 14th of February, 1797: the number then killed was 73, and 223 wounded; and at Navarino, 75 killed, and 197 wounded.—*London paper.*

Amenable Judges.—Under the Salique law, a judge who had given an iniquitous judgment was obliged to fight a duel with the party wronged, if the latter chose to challenge him; and the law therefore ordained that a judge, on giving sentence, should put his buckler on his arm.

The Turkish Admiral's Flag.—On Tuesday afternoon Lord Viscount Inglestrie, on his way to the Admiralty through this city, suspended from his carriage the crimson flag of the Turkish admiral, and which also had the device of the Crescent and a Star.—*Kent Herald.*

Since the arrival of Lord Inglestrie, a report has been circulated that, during the action at Navarino, a small vessel of 18 guns passed through the fleet, with despatches for the Sultan, at Constantinople, and that after the battle, twelve tataras were dispatched overland. It is said to be usual in Turkey to send off several expresses on very extraordinary occasions, the first and second that arrive being well rewarded, the last running a great chance of the hangman.—*Evening paper.*

NORTH AMERICAN FISHERIES.

A Nova Scotia Paper of the 25th Oct. contains the following:—"The Schooner Dolphin, Captain McNeil, arrived here on Tuesday last, under charge of an officer and four men belonging to his Majesty's ship Alligator. This vessel, it seems, is owned in Picton, and proceeded from that port to the Magdalen Islands, on a trading voyage. When she arrived at the islands, Mr. Knibb, the Collector of the Customs, being absent from his usual place of residence, the Captain was unable, as he alleges, to come to entry; but without regarding this legal preliminary, he proceeded to sell part of his cargo, and take fish on board. Shortly afterwards, his Majesty's ship Alligator, Captain Canning happened to arrive, and the Lieutenant, on coming on board and ascertaining the facts mentioned above, seized her for a breach of the revenue laws. An officer and men were sent on board, and they immediately put the vessel under weigh, and set sail for Halifax. Captain McNeil, who had been in that quarter nearly the whole of the present summer, assures us that the number of American and French fishing vessels who have visited the Islands is immense. Not only do these foreigners come on shore and cure their catch, but freely trade with the inhabitants, and exchange beef, flour, pork, gin, &c. for the fish caught and cured by the British subjects. It has been loudly complained of by all the traders to the Magdalen Islands this season, that the French vessels from St. Pierre, and Miquelon succeeded in securing the best fish, and thus dashed all hopes of profit from their enterprise."

Printing for the Blind.—This important art has, we are happy to perceive, been practically carried into effect in this country. Practically, we say; for though it has been introduced both in Vienna and Paris, yet from the faulty nature of the alphabet employed in those places, it has been found of very little utility. At a meeting of the managers of the Edinburgh Blind Asylum on the 25th ult. after some routine business, they proceeded specially to examine the nature and efficiency of the books lately printed for the use of the blind. Some of the boys belonging to the asylum were introduced, who, though the books had been in their possession only a few weeks, and had no regular teaching, were able readily to distinguish all the letters, and easily discriminated those which were like to each other. They were then, by Dr. Gordon and others of the directors, made to take isolated words in different parts of the book, which they at once knew; and they afterwards read slowly, but correctly, in different parts. By repeated trials, and by varying the exercises, the di-

rectors were of opinion, that the art promised to be of the greatest practical utility to the blind, who, it evidently appeared, would be able to use these books with increasing facility. Mr. Gall also stated, that the apparatus for writing to, and by, the blind, was in a state of considerable forwardness. The principles had been completely settled, and found efficient. The letters were easily formed, upon common post letter paper, by one motion of the hand; and being submitted, one after another, were correctly and invariably distinguished by the blind boys present.—*Scotsman.*

On Wednesday, a New Zealand youth, of the name of Tripo, died of a disease in the lungs, in the Royal Infirmary. We believe he is the first real New Zealander who has ever been in Scotland; and his history is not a little remarkable. A considerable time ago, a British trading vessel lay off one of the harbours of New Zealand; and when there, portions of her crew occasionally went on shore, and maintained a friendly intercourse with the inhabitants. In the course of that intercourse, Tripo, who was then but a boy, formed an intimacy with, and a strong attachment to, one of the mates. Young as he was, he was admitted to the divers which were held by his tribe; by which means he came one day to discover, that with the treachery and ferocity which distinguish them, they had conspired to board the vessel the ensuing night, and murder her crew. His affection for his friend, the mate, prevailed over any which he might have entertained for his tribe and his kindred; and stealing unobserved to the shore, he swam on board the ship, and divulged to the crew the horrible conspiracy. At the time of the expected attack, the crew were on their guard; and as the inhabitants, in their boats, neared the ship, they were fired upon, and most of them killed. Poor Tripo, of course, could not return to the island, and was removed in the ship he had so magnanimously saved to Sydney, in New South Wales, where he was found by Captain Mood, of the Australian Company's ship Portland, now in Leith harbour, acting in the capacity of boatman. Captain Mood humanely gave him employment as a cabin-boy on board the Portland, in which ship he sailed from Sydney to Leith; before arriving at which, he was attacked by the disease which brought him to a premature grave at the age of 19. His countenance was remarkably pleasing, but like his countrymen, he was regularly tattooed on the forehead and chin; he was of the middle size, and of considerable muscular strength and activity. He used to walk sideways, with his head almost resting upon the advanced shoulder. So far as could be discovered, he had not imbibed any religious notions, but was singularly mild and inoffensive. When in the infirmary, he was not only patient and uncomplaining, but highly grateful for the attentions which were paid to him, though he betrayed a strong aversion to the medicines which were offered for his use. He was often very clamorous for turnips and carrots, always adding to his request "no pod," meaning not boiled, as he preferred them in their raw state.—*Edin. paper.*

THE NAVARINO BATTLE CHANT.

Light royal tower and palace fair,
Bid lordly London shine;
Then lift your silver goblets high,
When they are full of wine;
Hear how the gladdening thousands shout,
Through all the gleaming town!
For England's ocean-sword has struck
The haughty Crescent down:
Greece, free in all her hundred isles,
Starts up and cries with me,
A health to George, our Island-King,
And sovereign of the sea!

And here's to thee, brave Codrington!
Like powder to the spark,
Thy spirit flashed out bright and strong;
O'er ocean deep and dark,
I see thee wave thy hand, and cry,
"My gallant comrades weigh!"
I see thee, like the thunder-bolt,
Red-bursting on the bay:
The rushing smoke and volleying flame
Shroud all the heathen ships;
Nearth Britain's sun, the Turkish moon
Is suffering an eclipse!

Hot in the midst De Rigny fights,
With his gay sons of France;
And well the stout De Heiden keeps
The battle's bloody stance;
While brave as France, as Russia stout,
Unmatched in might and skill,
The Island sailors make the waves
The vassals of their will;
And leave of all yon stately fleets,
That sailed so lordly by,
But that blood-bubble on the wave—
Yon smoke-cloud in the sky!

Greece, glorious Greece! thy name's a spell—
And an old spell; for none
Of thy old spirit's in the land—
Thy day of glory's gone:
Olympus' hill is dumb, and all
Thy sons are soulless clo's;
The last of mankind—boasting sires
A little less than gods.
In vain doth valour strike the steel
O'er nature's dull and cold—
Yet here's to Greece! she shows one spark
Where bright fires flashed of old.
Her's to the Russian, bold and stout—
The Frenchman, frank and brave—

And all heroic hearts who fought
On Navarino's wave:
Again—here's gallant Codrington,
A warrior tried and true!
Name but a braver, better man,
And I shall toast him too.
A health to royal Clarence,
We owe him three times three:
And here's to George, our Island-King,
The sovereign of the sea!
ALLAN CUNNINGHAM.
—*La Gazette.*

ARMY PROMOTIONS.

WAR-OFFICE, NOVEMBER 12, 1827.
1st Regiment of Foot.—Capt. D. M. Nicol, from Half-pay to be Capt., vice M. R. promoted. To be Lieut. without purchase.—Ensign F. Lucas, vice Halebrook, promoted.—Ensign H. M. Dalrymple, vice Maclean promoted.—Lieut. W. R. Burrow, from Half-pay 56th foot, vice Ritchie, placed upon Half-pay. To be Ensigns.—Ensign R. James, from Half-pay 52d foot, vice Lucas; Ensign R. M. Campbell, from Half-pay 65th foot, vice Dalrymple.
21st Ditto.—Second Lieut. W. Johnston to be First Lieut. by purchase, vice Beete, promoted; C. W. L. Motte, Gent. to be Second Lieut. by purchase, vice Johnston.
25. Ditto.—Capt. W. J. D. Urban, from Half-pay to be Capt., vice W. N. Hill, Exchanges; Ensign H. Curling from Half-pay to be Ensign, vice Wilton, appointed to 70th foot.
25th Ditto.—J. J. O. Moore, Gent. to be Ensign, without purchase, vice Carnie, promoted.
60th Ditto.—Captain G. Browne, from Half-pay to be Captain, vice J. R. Broadhead, who exchanges receiving the difference, A. Mandy, Gent. to be Second Lieut. without purchase, vice Haslock, promoted to 24th foot.
93d Ditto.—Lieutenant P. S. Hunt from Half-pay 3d West India Regiment to be Lieutenant, vice A. R. Evans, placed upon Half-pay.
WAR-OFFICE, NOVEMBER 13, 1827.
Garrisons.—Gen. G. Duke of Gordon, G. C. B. to be Governor of Edinburgh Castle, vice Sir R. Abercromby, deceased; Hospital Staff.—Dr. J. M. D. 1 from Half-pay, to be Deputy Inspector of Hospitals.
Office of Ordnance, November 14, 1827.
Royal Regiment of Artillery.—Major-General G. W. Dixon to be Colonel Commandant, vice Stedman, deceased. To be Lieutenant Colonels—Major E. Wilton, J. Macdonald, J. Adams, W. Roberts, T. Patterson, W. Morrison, W. Cleere, N. W. Oliver, C. H. Colby, and J. P. St. Clair.
WHITEHALL, November 13, 1827.
The King has been pleased to nominate and appoint Vice-Admiral Sir Edward Codrington, Knight Commander of the Most Honourable Military Order of the Bath to be a Knight Grand Cross of the said Most Honourable Military Order.
The King has also been pleased to nominate and appoint the undermentioned Officers in the Royal Navy, to be companions of the said Most Honourable Military Order of the Bath, viz:—Capt. J. W. Ommanney, the Hon. J. A. Mordaunt, Hon. F. Spencer, E. Curzon; Commanders J. N. Campbell, R. Dickenson, G. B. Martin, L. Davis, Hon. W. Anson, Lord Vice Legation, W. L. Baynes.
WINDSOR, Nov. 13, 1827.—The King was this day pleased to confer the honor of Knighthood upon the Right Hon. William H. Fremantle, Treasurer of his Majesty's Household, and Knight Grand Cross of the Royal Hanoverian Guelphic Order.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

PORT OF ST. JOHN.

ARRIVED.

Jan. 5. Sch. Driver, Terrance, St. Vincent wine.
Brig Star, Cranston, Barbados, brick, lime, &c.
7. Sch. Canoe, Biglow, Cause, (N. S.) fish & lumber.
Sch. Wellington, Williams, St. Thomas, flour.
Sloop Active, Davis, St. Bart's corn and wine.
Sloop Sophia, Dooly, St. Thomas, meal & flour.
Mail Boat Alpha, from Windward.
Sch. Elizabeth, Bradwayte, Crab Island, timber.
9. Sch. Robert Grant, Tomlinson, Trinidad, ballast.
French Sloop Neptune, Bougie, Guadeloupe, balst.
Mail boat Nancy & Mary, Bennett, La Guayra.
10. Sch. Perseverance, Harvey, St. Martins, via St. Barts; corn.

SAILED.

Jan. 6. Sch. Driver, Terrance, St. Vincent.
7. Sch. Mary Sanderson, Perryman, St. Bart's.
Mail Boat Alpha, Carter, to Leeward.
9. Sch. Trial, Mitchell, Dominica.

MARRIED.

On Wednesday last, in St. John's Church by the Rev. Robert Holberton, M. A., Mr. James J. Bird, to Jane Hall, eldest daughter of the late Rev. George Collins.

DIED.

On Thursday last (Jan. 3rd) an infant Son of John Joseph Roman Esq.—On Friday, Mr. Robert Kiwan:—On Tuesday, Master John Henry, Son of the late Hon. and Rev. Samuel W. Harman.

AUCTION.

To-morrow the 12th instant, at the Store of the Subscribers, for Cash, before delivery,

COD FISH in hogsheads,

BEEF,

PORK,

LARD,

BUTTER,

SOAP,

CHEESE—Several Articles of Dry

Goods, and some Furniture.

JOHN PAGE & CO.

St. John's, Jan. 11, 1828

30 DOLLARS REWARD

Will be cheerfully paid to any free person or persons, who will give information on the person who raised a most infamous and scandalous Report, containing the grossest falsehoods, for the express purpose, of not only injuring the character of the late Manager of Royal's Estate, but also stabbing at the very vitals of his family. It is supposed to have originated with a woman, a sick nurse, by the name of Nubba; and a man, a Cooper, by the name of Philip, who was corrected for bad conduct on the Estate. The aggrieved will be found at Mrs. SUTHERLAND'S.
January 11.

AUCTION.

On WEDNESDAY the 23rd instant, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon, will be sold at the Residence on Hawes's Estate, the personal Effects of The late Hon. THOS. ROGERS:—consisting of

MASSIVE silver bowls, waiters, ladles, spoons, forks, salt cellars, mustard and pepper pots, &c.

Some plated Ware—China bowls, dinner, breakfast and tea services, elegant cut and figured tumblers, wine glasses, and decanters, globe and side lamps.

A side board brass mounted, dining and card tables, chests of drawers, sofas, chairs, dressing tables and writing desks, a copying machine, a book case with some valuable books, telescopes, barometers, and fowling pieces, knives and forks ivory handled.

— ALSO —

One pipe, 1 half pipe, and about 20 dozen choice WINES.

A few hundred gallons very superior Old RUM.

— LIKEWISE —

A PHÆTON, GIG with Harness, and three Draft HORSES.

And a Flock of about 200 head of SHEEP.

A Bermudian Built BOAT with Sails, and two other Boats.

Terms of Sale:—Sums under £20, to be paid on delivery, above that amount by Notes with approved Security, payable on the 5th April next.
January 11.

PARISH OF SAINT MARY.

NOTICE is hereby given, That a Meeting of the Vestry of this Parish will be holden at the Valley Chapel, on MONDAY next the 14th inst., at 11 o'clock in the forenoon, to elect Church-Wardens and arrange the Business generally of the current year.

By Order,

JAMES SCOTLAND,

January 11. Vestry Clerk.

FOR LONDON,

THE regular trader GEO. HIBBERT, the Subscriber and Captain STILES, request the early assistance of their friends and those of Mr. THOMAS HEAD, in dispatching the said Vessel which has commenced loading.

ROBT. JAGGARD.

January 11.
N. B. This Ship has very superior accommodations for Passengers.

NOTICE.

THE Subscribers intending to dissolve the Co-partnership at present existing between them, under the Firm of JOHN POOL & CO., earnestly request all persons indebted to them to come forward with immediate payment of their Accounts, as they positively intend to close the Business on the 1st March next, and will be compelled to use legal means for the recovery of such accounts as may at that time remain unsettled.—They beg to say that the above notice is given solely for the purpose specified, and will be most rigidly acted upon.

JOHN POOL.

W. H. SHAPLAND.

January 11.

ADVERTISEMENT.

THE Subscriber begs leave to inform his Friends and the Public generally, that he has removed his Vendue and Commission Store, from that of the late Thomas B. Sears, to the Store occupied by Messrs. MASON'S in Subscription Alley, where he intends carrying on the above Business, and hopes from strict attention and punctuality to merit a share of Public favors. He will also attend Sales in any part of the Town or Country, at the shortest notice and make advances on Goods lodged at his Store for sale.
JOHN W. ALLAWAY,
Jan. 11. Auctioneer.

FOR SALE,

A BAY MARE, fit for Saddle or Draught—also, a handsome English PONEY.—Apply at this Office.
January 11.

FOR LONDON.

CAPT. MORTON begs to inform his friends and the shippers to London that the JAMAICA has this day commenced loading, and he solicits their assistance to enable him to sail by the 1st of March.
Dec. 29.

LORD STOWELL'S DECISION.

(From the Watchman, November 11.)

The judgment of Lord Stowell in the case of a female slave belonging to the island of Antigua, pronounced in the Admiralty Court on Tuesday last, is a masterly production. For acuteness of observation, for clearness of reasoning, for extensive information, and for elaborate research, it is equal to any of the most important decisions that have proceeded from that great constitutional lawyer. It is fortunate for the country and her colonies that there is still on the bench a remnant of the old stock—one of the few who served and saved her in perilous times—one of those who, directed by their own genius, with one hand on the book of the law, and the other holding the balance, without fear, and unswayed by faction, measured out scrupulous justice to all. Lord Eldon, and Lord Stowell, together, may, almost rivals in fame, be not in their ripe old age. The former served his king till he could serve him no longer with honour; while the latter, with less responsible duties, is still the ornament of the bench. Neither may, for aught we know, stand so high in the estimation of their sovereign as they once did—it is their fate to be slandered by the menial statesmen who now shine at court—the united clan of profligates and apostates may, if they please, over their cups, sport their venom at their reputations—but the nation, when it is sick of liberalism, when it has driven the present quacks from its councils, will do their memories justice. The names of Eldon and Stowell will be revered by statesmen and lawyers, when those of Canning and Plunkett, Huskisson and Scarlett, Petty and Turner, and all the viler brood—the Broughams, the Williamsses, the Kennedys, and the James Mackintoshes—are forgotten. When the present fever has subsided—when poverty at home and disgrace abroad have awakened the drugged senses of our countrymen, justice will be done to the characters and talents of Eldon and Stowell. Build a monument to Canning forsooth! Let them build it higher than the Pyramids, and case it in brass if they will, it will be a nameless ruin when Eldon and Stowell will be remembered. To these illustrious men the nation owes a debt which it never will be able to pay. The present may be the last decision which Lord Stowell shall ever pronounce, and we should not, under the present circumstances, regret if it were the last; still, for the sake of the colonies, for the sake of the justice of the country, we thank God he has lived to give it the sanction of his judicial authority.

Our readers will for these reasons perhaps forgive us, if we should prove somewhat tedious in reviewing this extraordinary case. He who will give himself the trouble to think—he who has a stake in his country—he who, if personally interested, is desirous to be judged by the laws and practice of British commerce, will probably not deem this an ill-chosen opportunity to expose the system which has of late years, to our cost, and to our dishonour, influenced public opinion in this country.

The slave in question some years ago came from Antigua to England, in the domestic service of her mistress. After residing some time here she returned to Antigua. A popular opinion, and, like many other popular opinions, a very absurd one, prevailed, that a person once free is for ever free. We have been told that the moment a slave sets his foot on the sacred soil of Great Britain his chains are broken, and he becomes as free as the air he inhales. All this is very excellent in the way of theatrical rant. It may be pleasant discourse to an assembly of stale spinners and sleek haired rogues at the conventicle, and to a certain extent it is true; but it is equally true, on the other side of the water, that once a slave you are ever a slave, unless redeemed by purchase or manumitted in the regular course of law. Lord Stowell's decision establishes that the free man here becomes a slave there, and consequently our boasted "sacred soil" and "free air," and all such stuff, rest of a fiction in one quarter, and an anomaly in law in another.

By the way, this vapouring about our "free air" partakes very much of the hypocrisy of the age. It is always observed that the lady of once easy virtue, who in her old age has become pious, is not only the most rigid in sanctity, but the loudest talker about the "precious truths," the "benign influences," and all the other gospel discoveries she has only recently made. So is it with the anti-slave quacks of the day. Who so eloquent about the "free air," and the "sacred soil," as Mr. Buxton, the porter brewer, whose property is derived from colonial slavery? What country on the face of the earth ever traded so largely in slaves as England? Slavery was encouraged by its laws, by bounties, by rewards, by grant of land—granted by the legislature on the express condition that slaves should be brought from Africa, and employed in cultivating it. The policy of English commerce was so closely interwoven with slavery, that the main source of our wealth was in the West Indies. We were a nation of slave dealers. The planter was but our instrument; the system originated with us, and was enforced, protected, and upheld by us. If slave dealing be a crime, the British people are the criminals. If the sins of the fathers be visited on their children, no wonder Wilberforce seeks shelter from the visitation in the groans of meliorism. No wonder Buxton tucks himself to the

ious tail of Mr. Stephen; and no wonder Zachary Macaulay seeks to propitiate offended justice by retailing only free labour rum and sugar. If it be a crime let us desist from it by all means; but as we have all shared the plunder, as we are all equally culpable, let us bear equally the expense of being just. And let us do this act of justice before we begin to boast and puff, and sing psalms about our "sacred soil" and "free air," and our "broken chains." Let the chains be really broken before we romance about it in the sickly strains of Mr. Montgomery, or the dog-grel ditties of Mr. Gre-k-Bond Bowring. No more rant on the hustings, nor at the tavern, nor in the tub, till this sacred soil be a sacred soil, and the broken chains be broken in truth, and at our sole expense.

But we are wandering from Miss Grace, the slave woman. When she arrived at Antigua, after having touched the "sacred soil," and breathed the "free air," did she demand her freedom? Did she consider herself a free woman in Antigua? These are natural questions, for if she had been a free woman, or considered herself as such, she would have been her own property—her own chattel. No one would have had a right to ask her vocation, or claim her servitude, far less make her a slave. All she should have had to do in that case, would be to prove that she had trodden the "sacred soil," and respired the "free air," of Britain. The woman however, who seems to have been imbued with a much larger portion of common sense than those of his majesty's white subjects, preferred no such claim. She continued to be, as she had ever been, the domestic slave of her mistress, and probably she was induced to remain so the more readily, from having seen with her own eyes the unenviable condition of the free labourers of the "sacred soil." After a lapse of two years, however, she was claimed by the king's advocate general of Antigua as a liberated African, and, therefore, entitled to the privileges of an African apprentice.

What sort of animal an African apprentice is, we believe we told the reader two weeks ago. Is the pious Mr. Dougan and the ragged petitioner forgotten?—are Messrs. Gannon and Bowles, the commissioners who fought and bled in the cause of these dear creatures forgotten? If not the abstract idea of an African apprentice may be conceived. There never was such an absurd claim as this on the part of the advocate general. Had he succeeded he might have preferred the claim upon the person of every individual who ever had the misfortune to come from England. The law that makes an African one of his majesty's drunken apprentices, presumes that the said apprentice is, at the time of seizure, a slave. If not a slave—if a free person, then the advocate general has no more right to that person than he has to the person of Mr. Buxton or any of his draymen.

The key to the whole of this absurdity is, that had Miss Grace been condemned as a liberated African, the Advocate General would have obtained the bounty paid by government in such cases.

But we come now to the more important question—was this woman free from having resided in England? Prior to the year 1771, it was held to be the law of England, and pronounced to be the law of England by two of the greatest Judges of the age, Lord Talbot and Lord Hardwicke, that a slave, by residing in England under any circumstances, did not consequently become free, but, on the contrary, could, at the will and pleasure of his master, be forcibly carried back to the colonies and sold as a slave. In 1771, however, an extraordinary case was decided by Lord Mansfield, in opposition to the practice of the country, and the opinion of Lord Chancellor Hardwicke. A slave called Somerset having come to England with his owner, refused to be sent back to Virginia. The owner seized him, and sent him aboard a ship, where he was bound, in order to be conveyed back. Had England been then what it is now, a nation of paupers—had Mungo seen then what is visible now, a wretched negro standing shivering in every street—a free man of course—but sweeping our crossings in rags, without shoes, and starving withal, he would have been much more inclined to go than to stay. These days, indeed, were the foolish, stupid, ignorant, sinful days of our forefathers. However, this Somerset—free man—"great man as massa"—had influence enough to induce some worthy person to move for a *habeas corpus* to prevent his deportation. The *habeas* was granted by Lord Mansfield, who, after the case had been solemnly argued—after as many pamphlets were published on it as would fill the Ebenezer chapel at Hammersmith—after his lordship had delayed judgment as long as possible, decided that Somerset must be released—that he was free—and that it was illegal to deport him at the pleasure of his owner. This case laid the foundation for the "sacred soil," it purified the air; it gave it all its anti-slavery virtues. Lord Mansfield argued that slavery was "so odious" that it could not be protected unless by a positive law, and there was no law in England which recognized it. All this is very redolent of cant. In the absence of positive law, why not consult practice? If "odious," why did it become odious all of a sudden? At the very time it was pronounced "odious," the colliers of Scotland were living in a state of slavery.

In short, this decision on the part of Lord

Mansfield was a peace offering to the awakened prejudices of the period. It reflects no credit on his candour or his discernment. It was not the province of Lord Mansfield to decide against the practice of the country. If the law had been defective, the legislature might have been applied to to correct it; but it was not his province to interpose his *diktum* between the rights and property of the subject and the practice of the country. What did he do? He decided that what was property in Virginia was not property in England—that a chattel which was worth a hundred pounds in Jamaica was not worth a farthing in London! He decided that as the English laws were not applicable to slaves in the colonies, the colonial slave was not applicable to slaves in England. In fact he held out a temptation to all the slaves in the colonies to smuggle themselves across the Atlantic, knowing that if they could but touch with the point of their great toes the "sacred soil" they would be free men. He introduced this most extraordinary anomaly into the law, namely, that if a person should bring his slave with him to England, he would cease to have any control over him while he remained, he would cease to have any property in him, he in fact would be worth just nothing; but if he could decoy this said new made free man aboard a ship, or convey him on board by force, and then carry him to the place whence he came, all his former power over him would be restored—he would cease to be a free man—and be compelled to re-assume the duties of a slave; he would be saleable, transferable, mortgageable, like any other chattel!

From Lord Mansfield's time the law has continued as he left it. The case now decided by Lord Stowell is the only one, touching upon the question, which has come under judgment. Grace voluntarily came to England with her mistress, and voluntarily returned to Antigua with her. Lord Stowell decides, that although, under Lord Mansfield's law, she was a free spinster in England, she is a slave in Antigua—that although no authority could be exercised over her here, except that of the parish officer in case she had become a pauper, yet that in Antigua she returns to bondage, and from being a free woman becomes a slave! The learned lord could not decide otherwise. Lord Mansfield decided in the absence of law on the subject—Lord Stowell in conformity with the laws of Antigua, Grace was a slave; the "free air" and "sacred soil" did not confer on her any rights or immunities in the colony; and, consequently, a slave she must continue to be. These fictions in law, these anomalies in the charter of common sense, are tantamount to a non-intercourse act between the slaves of the West Indies and their owners, the subjects of this country, who may choose to visit the mother country. The owner dare not bring his domestic servant with him to this country, unless he choose to run the hazard of losing his right of property in him; the slave, when he becomes free here, dare not return to his colonial birth place unless he be desirous to return to slavery. This is English and Anglo colonial law. To Lord Mansfield we are indebted for all this absurdity. Lord Stowell, however, has set the legal question at rest; and let no man now talk of the "free air," the "sacred soil," or the "broken chains." It is pleasant to have one's chains knocked off; but it is very unpleasant, we should think, after having sipped our fill of liberty, to have them riveted on again.

(From the Glasgow Courier, November 13.)

The decision in this case is a very important one, and at this critical moment it is more particularly so. It stamps a value and a consistency upon West India property, nearly shaken to pieces by injustice and frenzy—a value and consistency which only direct violence and open robbery can take away or destroy. We really think that there will be few remaining in this country who, after perusing his Lordship's speech, will stand up and tell us, as it was attempted lately to tell us, that the slaves of the West Indies are not property, and property under the special guarantee of the laws of England. This being clearly the case, it follows that the Colonists have a right to protect that property, and if need be to knock on the head whoever comes forward IN THE COLONIES to wrest it from them, and farther, it calls on the laws of their country to hang those who may forcibly wrest it from them. The Custom house Officers in Antigua, in St. Kitt's, and in other places, and similar catchers of what is another man's property, may be justly raised and cut off in their attempts to take it away on any pretence whatever. His Lordship has laid the saddle on the right horse, and tells us that slavery, since it is a crime, "is, in a peculiar manner, the crime of this country," and that if she will do it away, she must honestly pay for it. No resolutions of the British House of Commons—nor of both Houses of Parliament, can supersede the laws of this country, nor can any Act of Parliament ever be justly passed to deprive any British subject of his property, without inquiry being directed to ascertain its value—inquiry not by prejudice, or fanaticism, or interested individuals, but by honest men, practically and intimately acquainted with its value, and all the details concerning it. A road, a canal, a fence, or the demolition of an old house, in order to take the ground whereon it stands for some other purpose, and for some other proprietor, public or private, must all and each of them be valued and paid for, be-

fore any act of Parliament can deprive their former owners of them. So it is, so it ought, and so it must be, with regard to all the property which British subjects have acquired under the laws of this country, and vested in the West Indies, under the encouragement and under the guarantee of the laws of their country; and hence, and taking this firm foundation as our stand—the foundation on which that able and upright Judge, Lord Stowell, grounds and maintains his decision, we repeat now, what we have again and again repeated, namely, that the whole of the proceedings adopted by the British Legislature and the British Government arising out of the rash resolutions of the House of Commons, May 23d, 1823, are illegal, oppressive and unjust, and further, and upon the same grounds, we maintain that no resolutions and no acts of the Government or the Legislature let these be what they may, can ever constitute these otherwise, except a fair appraisement and full payment is made, before dispossessing the present owners of West India property, of their lawful property.

Where common sense has been clamoured down, and law and justice thrown behind our backs in times past, the present decision of Lord Stowell restores both to their pristine purity and vigour, and gives the whole West India colonists immovable ground to stand on, and to resist, in *limine*, every measure of Government, which has the deterioration or destruction of their property in view, by ultimate emancipation without immediate and complete compensation being awarded and provided. They must not allow melioration to be mixed up with or conjoined with emancipation—Under cover of the former the cunning men in office and out of office, who may perhaps get clear of their slave property, by selling it to the highest bidder, and pocketing the cash, as many, more especially of the latter class, have done;—under cover of the former, we say these men seek to carry the latter without any compensation whatever. We have often stated this, and the *Times* in its review of Lord Stowell's judgment, bears us out, and candidly tells the colonists that it is humbugging them to make them believe that any compensation is to be given them, for that nothing of the kind ever was or is intended by the thick and thin emancipators in this country. The colonies, therefore, are justified in making a stand, and not only so, but to require either compensation full and adequate if ultimate emancipation is to be kept in view; or, if that compensation is denied them, to refuse to surrender their property to any authority whatever; not only so, but by the existing laws of England, they may also require, that the rash and illegal Resolutions of the late House of Commons, on which our Executive Government more rashly acted, should be rescinded, or remain a dead letter.

What the Privy Council will now do in the face of the law of the land, as developed by a decision, by one of the greatest of our Judges, and so clear and so plain, we cannot tell. It was to have met on Wednesday last to consider the compulsory manumission clause for Barbicee and Demerara, but the meeting was all at once adjourned till the 19th. It is impossible that the Council can justly proceed one step farther, nay, one step in the measure, without having first provided with, and prepared to give ample compensation. The whole proceedings on the part of this country throughout this colonial business, have not only been contrary to justice, but in direct opposition to the proper course which ought to have been followed, in order to attain the ultimate object kept in view—namely, complete emancipation. Our political economists, free traders and emancipators, maintain that it is impolitic, irrational, and injurious, and unjust to this country and to the Human Race, to keep Scotsmen ploughing in the glens of the Highlands, and upon moorlands in the Lowlands, while an acre of ground in Kent or Bedfordshire, or Mid Lothian, will yield a larger return to the same quantity of labour, and that all the agricultural labourers should be drawn or driven from the former places to the latter; while at the same time, the same sapient and humane Statesmen bind down the Blackies in our colonies to the poor and impoverished soil of many of our old islands; whilst thousands of acres of fertile lands in our new possessions, remain waste for want of labourers; and not only so, but by this insane act, while they thus bind down the slave to a severer labour, and consequently, privations in an impoverished and unproductive soil; they, at the same time, by cutting off a supply of labourers from the new and fertile colonies, raise the value of the slaves in those to such a high price, as to render the purchase of their freedom, by themselves, almost impracticable, or within the reach of very few, and which, besides, increases the opposition which the West India proprietors must entertain against a system, which, while it goes to strip them of their present labourers, leaves them without others to replace them, but which, could the slaves be removed from one island to another, would readily be obtained, and thus emancipation be suffered gradually to proceed with less expense to the slaves, and with advantage to all. Cannot our rulers see these simple and obvious truths, and seeing these, cannot they shake themselves clear of those injurious trammels which prevent them from rendering the colonists justice, and from doing this country and the slaves themselves much good.